

Morning Highlights

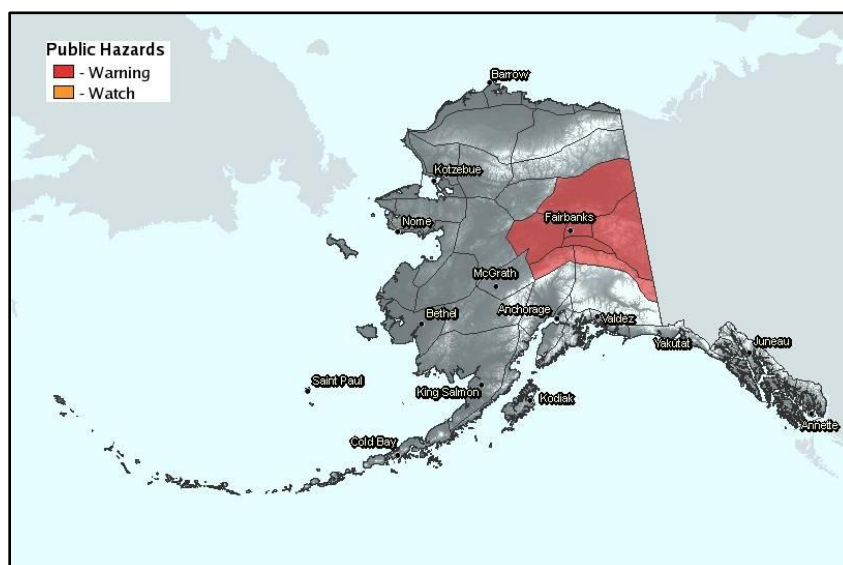
August 3, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-49
Time: 12:00 pm

Contact:
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

Red Flag Warnings/ Weather Outlook

Conditions remain hot and dry across the eastern portion of the state. Seven Red Flag Warnings have been issued by the National Weather Service for low humidities in the Yukon Flats and surrounding uplands; central interior; middle Tanana Valley; Deltana and Tanana Flats; upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile country; Denali; and the northeastern slopes of the eastern Alaska Range. The warnings mean that conditions promote rapid fire growth. Specific information about Red Flag Warnings and weather can be found at:

<http://firewx.arh.noaa.gov/warnings.php>



Besides Red Flag Warnings, firefighting weather concerns for the next several days include a lack of precipitation for the eastern portion of the state (including southeast Alaska), and the potential for a cooler weather front moving in and causing high wind gusts with no precipitation in the northeastern part of the state.

Smoke

Based on wind patterns and fire locations, communities and villages throughout the eastern portion of Alaska may experience smoky conditions. Smoke from the Wood River 1 Fire and the Railbelt Complex continues to impact Fairbanks and interior communities. Smoke from fires burning in Canada is impacting southeast Alaska. To learn about protecting yourself from wildland fire smoke, visit: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>. Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

Aviation Safety Around Wildland Fires

Four Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) are in place in Alaska. The TFRs are over the Railbelt Complex near Nenana, the Chakina Fire near McCarthy, and the Crazy Mountain Complex near Circle, and around the temporary air traffic control tower in Fort Yukon. Pilots should check NOTAMS for information about these fires. Commercial, private and other non-firefighting aircraft pilots are also asked to use caution in the vicinity of any wildland fire, even those without TFRs. Please be aware that fire aircraft may be working in or around a fire's perimeter. New fires should be reported to Flight Service Stations or 1-800-237-3633.

Fire Information Phone Numbers

Specific information offices are set up to support individual wildland fire incidents throughout Alaska. For news releases from specific fires, please visit: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>. Information to contact an individual fire or complex:

Incident	Location	Phone (907)	Email	Website Info/ Photos
Crazy Mountain Complex: (Bluff Creek, Jagged Ridge, Puzzle Gulch, Little Black One fires)	Near Central/ Circle, AK	733-5511	crazymountaincomplex@gmail.com	http://inciweb.org/incident/1780
Railbelt Complex: (Minto Flats South, Lunch Lake, June Creek fires)	Near Nenana	378-3843	mintoflatsouthfire@gmail.com	http://inciweb.org/incident/1725/
Wood River 1 Fire	Near Fairbanks	388-7526		http://inciweb.org/incident/1775/
Chakina Fire	Near McCarthy	356-5511		www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm (may not be regularly updated)

Alaska General Wildland Fire Summary

Five new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Sunday. Three of the fires were small and human-caused (one each reported to the Tongass, Delta Area Forestry and Mat-Su Area Forestry). Two lightning-caused fires were reported, one at .1 acres to the Alaska Fire Service Upper Yukon Zone, and one 900-acre fire to Fairbanks Area Forestry. The 900-acre Rex Creek Fire is roughly 30 miles southeast of Nenana, burning on the east side of the Parks Highway.

Ten fire crews from the Lower-48 will arrive today to support Alaska firefighting efforts.

According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, so far this year 483 fires have burned 2,378,578.6 acres statewide. Statewide, 81 fires are active and 12 of the 81 fires are staffed. For more information, visit <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and for a map of fire locations, click on "Fire Information" at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>.

Alaska General Staffed Fire Summary

Information below is summarized from today's Situation Report and/or other sources

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Railbelt Complex	NW of Nenana	462,462 acres	Type 2 Incident Mgt. Team
			Augusta Hotshots
<i>Fires in Complex</i>			Chena Hotshots
Minto Flats South	12 mi. W of Nenana		Delta #2 Type 2 crew
Lunch Lake	20 mi. NW of Nenana		Fairbanks #2 Type 2 crew
June Creek	21 mi. NW of Healy		Fairbanks #3 Type 2 crew
			Great Northern T2IA
			Huslia #1 Type 2 crew
			Idaho Panhandle Hotshots
			Lewis & Clark #2 T2IA
			Lewis & Clark Hotshots
			Lolo Regulars #1 T2IA
			Midewin Hotshots
			USFS Interagency T2IA
			Upper Tanana #3 Type 2
			Upper Tanana #4 Type 2
			Upper Tanana #5 Type 2
			Yukon T2IA crew
			468 personnel in Complex
Crazy Mountain Complex	<i>*Today's numbers from AICC Predictive Services</i>	354,975 acres	Type 2 Incident Mgt. Team
			Arctic Village Type 2 crew
<i>Fires in Complex</i>			Fort Yukon #1 Type 2 crew
Bluff Creek	6 mi. W of Circle	33,652 acres	Grayling Type 2 crew
Little Black One	18 mi. NE of Circle	292,907 acres	Kaltag #2 Type 2 crew
Jagged Ridge	19 mi. S of Circle	27,816 acres	Midnight Sun Hotshots
Puzzle Gulch	22 mi. SE of Circle Hot Springs	600 acres	Stebbins #2 Type 2 crew
			169 personnel in Complex
Kantishna River 2	40 mi. W of Anderson	3 acres	4 personnel
Davis Creek	4.5 mi. E of Lower Tonsina	0.2 acres	9 personnel
Fort Hamlin Hills	22.5 mi. W of Stevens Village	113 acres	4 personnel

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Paddle	18 mi. SE of Circle	25,985 acres	5 personnel
Rock Slough	50 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	39,500 acres	83 personnel
			Allakaket #1 Type 2 crew
			Noorvik #1 Type 2 crew
			North Star Type 2 crew
			St. Michaels Type 2 crew
Stevens Creek 1	25 mi. SW of Rampart	68,156 acres	4 personnel
Bear Creek	58 mi. W of Healy	51,760 acres	4 personnel
Zitziana	53 mi. W of Anderson	122,706 acres	39 personnel
			Gannett Glacier Type 2 1A
Bear Paw	53 mi. W of Healy	7,085 acres	8 personnel
Chakina	13 mi. S of McCarthy	53,944 acres	18 personnel

National Wildland Fire Summary

National initial attack was heavy Sunday, with 439 new fires, including 11 new large fires, and 19 uncontained fires. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, fire activity picked up yesterday throughout the West. Eleven new large fires were reported: one each in Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, and Texas; four in Arizona; and three in California. Firefighters contained the Limbo Fire in Nevada.

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>

- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights were compiled by Maggie Rogers (Alaska Division of Forestry), Diane Hunt and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).